Amendments to the specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 3 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to an assay for homocysteine in body fluids or fluids derived therefrom and to kits for such assays.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 22 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Viewed from one aspect therefore the invention provides a method for assaying homocysteine in a sample, said method comprising:--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 31 and ending at page 5, line 8 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In the method of the invention, the homocysteine content of the sample, preferably the tHcy value, is determined indirectly by determining the amount of the polyhapten:antibody complex, preferably by nephelometry or turbidimetry. The homocysteine content may be determined quantitatively, e.g. in absolute units such as μmol/L, or alternatively the determination may be qualitative, e.g. simply that it is above a predetermined threshold such as 15, 18 or 20 μmol/L. Generally, the assay measurement will be calibrated against standard homocysteine solutions containing known concentrations of homocysteine, usually L-homocysteine; however for assays

run on automated analysers only occasional calibration will be necessary, e.g. when reagent reservoirs are refilled.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 9 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows a plot of absorption against time for calibration samples under the assay system of Example 8;

Figure 2 shows a plot of absorption against time for calibration samples under the assay system of Example 9;

Figure 3 shows dose response curves for the assays using the polyhaptens of Examples 4 and 5;

Figure 4 shows a comparison of immunoprecipitation signal obtained using BSA-SAH, IgY-SAH and PTG-SAH conjugates under the assay conditions of Example 8;

Figure 5 shows a plot of absorption against time for calibration samples under the assay system of Example 10; and

Figure 6 shows the dose response curve for the assay of Example 10.--